

What do we plant?

Henry Abbey

What do we plant, when we plant the tree?

We plant the ship, which will cross the sea.

We plant the mast to carry the sails;

We plant the planks to withstand the gales;

The keel, the keelson, the beam, the knee;

We plant the ship, when we plant the tree.

What do we plant, when we plant the tree?

We plant the house for you and me.

We plant the rafters, the shingles, the floors;

We plant the studding, the laths, the doors;

The beams, the siding; all parts that be;

What do we house, when we plant the tree?

What do we plant, when we plant the tree?

A thousand things that we daily see;

We plant the spire that out towers the crag,
We plant the staff for our country's flag;
We plant the shade, from the hot sun free;
What plant all these, when we plant the tree.